

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A data processing method ~~performed by a server~~ for providing data to a terminal from a server via a network, the method comprising:

~~a reception step of receiving a request for data loading from the terminal;~~

an issuing step for issuing a request for data loading from the terminal to the server in response to an instruction by a user;

a completion discrimination step of the server discriminating, in response to the request for data loading, whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress;

a first transmission step of transmitting from the server to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

a prediction step of the server predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof is in progress; [[and]]

a second transmission step of transmitting the predicted end time and information for requesting data loading again at the predicted end time from the server to the terminal if the generation of the requested data is in progress;

a display step of the client displaying the requested data or the predicted end time received from the server; and

a re-issuing step of, in a case where the received data includes the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time, re-issuing

the request for data loading from the terminal to the server without a further instruction by the user when the predicted end time is reached.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A data processing method according to claim 1, wherein said prediction step ~~predicts~~ includes predicting the end time based on an amount of data to be generated.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A data processing method according to claim 1, wherein the requested data is generated by execution of a predetermined process, and said prediction step ~~predicts~~ includes predicting the end time based on a time required for executing the predetermined process.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A data processing ~~apparatus for providing~~ system comprising a server and a client, and in which said server provides data to a terminal from a server to said client via a network, ~~the apparatus comprising wherein said~~ server comprises :

first reception means for receiving a request for data loading from the terminal;

completion discrimination means for discriminating, in response to the request for data loading, whether a generation of requested data has completed or is in progress;

first transmission means for transmitting to the terminal the requested data if the generation thereof has completed;

a prediction means for predicting an end time of the generation of the requested data if the generation thereof is in progress; and

second transmission means for transmitting the predicted end time and information for requesting data loading again at the predicted end time to the terminal if the generation of the requested data is in progress[[]],

and wherein said client comprises:

issuing means for issuing the request for data loading to the server in response to an instruction by a user;

second reception means for receiving from the server either requested data or the predicted end time together with the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time; and

control means for, in a case where the received data includes the information for re-issuing the request for data loading at the predicted end time, controlling said issuing means as to re-issue the request for data loading from the terminal to the server without a further instruction by the user when the predicted end time is reached.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A data processing ~~apparatus~~ system according to claim 5, wherein said prediction means predicts the end time based on an amount of data to be generated.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A data processing ~~apparatus~~ system according to claim 5, wherein the requested data is generated by execution of a predetermined process, and said prediction means predicts the end time based on a time required for executing the predetermined process.

Claims 8 - 10 (cancelled).